

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5613

PASS DEPT OF LABOR, ILAB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PO

SUBJECT: LEADER GRANT TRAVEL FOR PORTUGUESE LABOR LEADERS

REF: LONDON 13770

1. REFTEL (PARA 10) REPORTED MEETING BETWEEN SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MARIO SOARES AND SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY. SENATOR REPORTEDLY OFFERED TO ARRANGE WITH GEORGE MEANY INVITATION FOR SOCIALIST LABOR LEADERS TO BE INVITED TO AFL-CIO CONGRESS. SOCIALISTS HAVE AS YET HAD NO FURTHER WORD REGARDING INVITATIONS FOR CONGRESS WHICH STARTS OCTOBER 2 IN SAN FRANCISCO.

2. IN A SWITCH FROM PREVIOUS POLICY OF CAUTION REGARDING ANY PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION WITH U.S. LABOR, SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS PLEASED AT PROSPECT OF AFL-CIO INVITATIONS. DEPUTY CHIEF OF SOCIALIST PARTY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SECTION, RUI MATEUS, TOLD LABATT SEPT 22 THAT PARTY AWAITING CONFIRMATION OF INVITATIONS AND IS PREPARED TO SEND UP TO FIVE REPRESENTATIVES. IN CONTRAST, PELAGIO MADUREIRA, WHO IS DIRECTOR OF CENTER OF SYNDICAL STUDIES (CES) TOLD LABATT SEPTEMBER 23 HE HAS SERIOUS DOUBTS WHETHER NON-COMMUNIST LABOR LEADERS SHOULD ACCEPT AFL-CIO INVITATIONS AT THIS TIME, EVEN IF OFFERED. (MADUREIRA TOGETHER WITH MARCELO CURTO COORDINATES SOCIALIST PARTY LABOR STRATEGY. HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF INVITATIONS FROM THE AFL-CIO UNTIL QUESTION RAISED BY LABATT.) MADUREIRA WILL DISCUSS
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MATTER WITH MATEUS AND HAS PROMISED TO HAVE AN AGREED POSITION

BY SEPTEMBER 24.

3. COMMENT: OUTCOME OF MADUREIRA/MATEUS TALKS WILL PROBABLY BE JUDGMENT THAT IT NOT POLITICALLY ADVISABLE FOR SOCIALIST LABOR LEADERS TO ACCEPT INVITATIONS TO VISIT US AT THIS TIME, BUT APPRECIATION FOR LOW-KEY APPROACH AND INQUIRY. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT (AND TO EXTENT IT WILLING, AFL-CIO AS WELL) BE GUIDED BY AGREED SOCIALIST POSITION REGARDING INVITATIONS FOR TIME BEING.

4. IN PAST U.S. GOVERNMENT LEADER GRANTS HAVE FACILITATED TRAVEL OF FOREIGN LABOR LEADERS TO AFL-CIO CONGRESSES. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES SHORT TIME FRAME BUT HOPEFUL THAT IF SOCIALISTS UNEXPECTEDLY EXPRESS WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND OCTOBER 2 CONGRESS THAT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CAN BE GIVEN.
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